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GRIFFITH EVANS.

BY TOWNSEND WARD.

On Indian Queen Lane, to the west of the Township Line Road, is a structure of stone, which, long ago, was used as a blacksmith's shop. It is said of it that when the British were at Germantown, in the Revolution, their farriers used it as a smithery for their cavalry. In recent years the building has been enlarged, and is now a tenant's dwelling house. It is on a place of some forty odd acres, in what in Colonial times was called "Liberty Lands." The property lies about half a mile north of Devon, Blight's place. In 1792 it was owned by Henry Hill, a Philadelphian long engaged in business in the Island of Madeira. Returning here, he built, for a residence, that fine old house on the east side of Fourth Street north of Union. He died of yellow fever in 1798. In 1802 Archibald McCall acquired the place, and made efforts there to improve the breed of sheep. He had imported Merinos, and dogs to protect them; but it is remembered that some of the dogs played the part of their cousin, the wolf. In 1818 the place passed from McCall to Griffith Evans, whose son, Dr. Horace Evans, now has it for his country residence. By these successive owners the mansion house has been several times enlarged, but its identity is established by the preservation in the building of one of the original stones of the house. This bears upon it the chiselled mark "1732," the date of erection of the oldest portion of the house.

When the American Army was at the Yellow Springs, Chester County, the youthful Griffith Evans, born the third of September, 1760, in Warwick, Chester County, went into the service, and became attached to the medical department. In his long after years of peace, a campaigning story he used to tell to his compatriots, was of one McKaraher; who also was in the medical department. A number of the young

men connected therewith, were riding out one day, during the war, when, on coming near a field where hemp was growing, their Hibernian friend, McKaraher, hurriedly rode away. Of course he was questioned as to the cause of this sudden movement, and his humourous answer was, pointing to the field of hemp: "Do you see yon? Irishman do not like yon!"

In 1787 Griffith Evans was Secretary of the Commissioners to settle the difficulties in Wyoming, and accompanied Timothy Pickering to the troubled region. Afterwards he was appointed Secretary to the Board of Commissioners to whom was entrusted the adjustment of claims of British subjects, under Article Sixth of what is known as Jay's Treaty of 1794. The Commissioners' office was in a building belonging to Kearney Wharton, No. 3 South Sixth Street. No practical result seems to have been reached by the Commissioners, whose labours in the course of a year or two ceased. Griffith Evans died in 1845, in the eighty-sixth year of his age.

Near to Dr. Evans's place, only one lot intervening, was that of the handsome Irishman, Washington's favourite, Col. Walter Stewart. He called his place Mount Stewart, and there he lived with his beautiful wife, Blair McClanachan's daughter. The Colonel's house, in the city, was in Market Street, below Sixth, the next house east of Washington's place of residence.